

DRAFT

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE
CITY OF GREENSBORO, N. C.

ADJOURNED MEETING:

15 APRIL 1999

Pursuant to motion made at the regular meeting held on 6 April 1999, Council met in adjourned session with the Guilford County Board of Commissioners at 7:00 p. m. on the above date in the Nussbaum Room of the Greensboro Public Library. The following members of Council were present: Mayor Carolyn S. Allen and Councilmembers Claudette Burroughs-White, Sandra G. Carmany, Keith A. Holliday, Yvonne J. Johnson, Earl F. Jones, Nancy Mincello, Robert V. Perkins and Donald R. Vaughan. Absent: None. Also present were J. Edward Kitchen, City Manager and Juanita F. Cooper, City Clerk.

The following members of the Guilford County Board of Commissioners were present: Chairman Bob Landreth and Commissioners Melvin Alston, Walter C. Cockerham, Warren G. Dorsett, Phyllis P. Gibbs, John Parks, Mary C. Rakestraw, Linda O. Shaw and Jeff Thigpen. Absent: Stephen Arnold; W. G. Dunovant entered later in the meeting. Also present were Roger Cotton, County Manager, and Effie Varitimidis, County Commissioners Office.

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The Mayor and Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Mayor advised the meeting would provide an opportunity for the exchange of information/ideas between City Council and the County Commissioners. The Chairman outlined the procedure for conduct of the meeting. The City Manager welcomed those present to the new library facility and recognized and expressed appreciation for staff members efforts to make this meeting a success.

The City Manager briefly reviewed the synopsis of current areas of collaboration by Greensboro and Guilford County that had been prepared by City staff. The County Manager also reviewed a similar list prepared by County staff.

Members of Council and the County Commissioners discussed with the respective Managers successful partnerships between the City and County. Discussion was held with respect to the types of existing contracts between the two governments, the manner in which the cost of services was determined—actual or negotiated costs, the varying terms of these agreements, and the lengthy/detailed process used by City and County staff to re-negotiate expiring contracts and offer recommendations to the Governing Bodies. Councilmember Jones requested the County Commissioners to reconsider their position in partnering in the MWBE Program.

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Commissioner Dunovant entered the meeting at 7:26 P.M.

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The City Manager explained that the original intent of the City/County water and sewer agreement was to provide services to areas outside the City in anticipation of urban growth and future annexation into Greensboro's corporate limits; he explained that Council had expressed its intent to provide currently limited water and sewer resources to citizens located inside and just outside the corporate limits. Members of the Governing Bodies discussed Greensboro's restricted water and sewer resources and the impact this would have on other areas of Guilford County, components of the existing water and sewer agreement and the need to renegotiate, and the

current/future improvements to the Osborne Wastewater Treatment Plant to address increased demands. Discussion was also held with respect to the Randleman Dam Project, Greensboro's agreement with Reidsville to provide additional water, and the possible changes in regulations regarding interbasin water transfer which would benefit North Carolina counties. It was suggested that because of the physical limitations in Guilford County, the water and sewer needs should be jointly addressed on a county-wide basis.

In response to suggestions by Council, the City Manager advised that City staff could provide an update to the Commissioners regarding Greensboro's concerns with respect to water and sewer issues. It appeared to be the consensus of the governing bodies that the Managers work to prepare an updated agreement for study/review.

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Commissioners Park and Alston offered for discussion several questions with regard to Greensboro's opposition to the incorporation of Colfax and what measures could be undertaken to gain Greensboro's support; the rationale for Greensboro's support of certain other incorporations in Guilford County was also discussed. A number of concerns with additional incorporations which were mentioned were: the sole source of revenue for these incorporations was a share of the sales tax with no taxes levied, the fact that some towns wanted to incorporate but hadn't taken responsibility, the negative impact the Colfax incorporation line at Greensboro's City limits would have on the City's future growth, the negative impact the proposed boundaries would have on critical land use on the I-40 corridor, the fact that some open space was critical to future development, and the opposition to any incorporated area being located between Greensboro and Kernersville.

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The County Manager spoke to the frustration involved with meetings between staff members and other Guilford County incorporated areas to discuss the creation of a regional Solid Waste Authority—another governing body—to address the need for a suitable site for disposition of trash in Guilford County. He advised two separate issues must be addressed: the Solid Waste Authority and landfill. Commissioner Alston commented that if the Committee could not achieve a consensus with respect to the Authority, the responsibility for making that decision would belong to the County Commissioners.

Elizabeth Treadway, Greensboro Environmental Services Director, responded to inquiries about the current life of the White Street Landfill and the facility's potential for growth if the City expanded the property and received approval from the State; spoke to the slow and complex process involved with the creation of a Solid Waste Authority; and in response to inquiries, advised other North Carolina counties could participate in the effort to create the Authority. Ms. Treadway also noted that the County's landfill agreement with the City must be renewed by December, 1999.

Discussion was also held with respect to the urgency, cost and timeframe involved with siting a landfill to meet future needs of Greensboro and Guilford County.

It appeared to be the consensus of both Governing Bodies that the Managers and staff work to address these issues.

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Providing a breakdown of tax distribution in Guilford County, the County Manager noted two options that could be used to distribute sales tax to towns/cities: population and the amount of property taxes collected. He advised if the method were changed from the current distribution method, Greensboro would lose \$672,000; the impact this change would have on smaller towns was also discussed. Questions were raised about the impact this change would have on consolidation efforts by Greensboro and other fire departments.

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Potential partnerships offered for consideration which might benefit City and County residents and save taxpayer dollars were: joint comprehensive planning, consolidation of planning efforts, libraries, police services, transportation and recycling. Ms. Treadway detailed the success of Greensboro's progressive recycling program; the County Attorney also provided information about successful participation of County residents who contracted for waste disposal service.

Other issues mentioned included partnering with the Guilford County Health Department to address various needs of the community, the potential for providing library services to rural areas of the County through a partnership with the School Board, programs for juvenile delinquency and crime prevention, regional transportation services and funding, the future location of schools in areas of need, and skateboarding.

Councilmember Perkins offered as topics for future discussion: 1) use up-to-date technology to link Greensboro, Guilford County, High Point and the Guilford County School system in an effort to reduce personnel and save money; 2) provide to the school system current/accurate population information; and 3) determine City and County positions with respect to the use of underutilized assets; i.e., old library building, large property in East Greensboro that needed to be developed and other ways to save taxpayer moneys.

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The Managers responded to the various requests and directives and stated they would work together to provide a response to requests for information; they reiterated that most of these initiatives being discussed or proposed involved policy decisions that must ultimately be resolved by the Council and/or Commissioners.

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Members of both governing bodies discussed the success of this meeting and the desire to meet again in 5-6 months.

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On behalf of the Chairman and the Board of Commissioners, the County Manager presented to the Mayor a bird feeder.

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THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 9:00 P. M. BY CONSENSUS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE GREENSBORO CITY COUNCIL AND THE GUILFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS.

JUANITA F. COOPER
CITY CLERK

CAROLYN S. ALLEN
MAYOR
